

**BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

REGULATORY AUTH.

In re: *BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. Tariff to Introduce CCS7 Access Arrangement Service*

JUN 14 PM 4 21

OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Docket No. 01-00440

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**JOINT PETITION OF XO TENNESSEE, INC., US LEC OF TENNESSEE, INC., LEAP  
WIRELESS INTERNATIONAL d/b/a CRICKET COMMUNICATIONS AND TIME  
WARNER TELECOM OF THE MID-SOUTH, L.P.**

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XO Tennessee, Inc. ("XO"), US LEC of Tennessee, Inc. ("US LEC"), Leap Wireless International d/b/a Cricket Communications ("Cricket") and Time Warner Telecom of the Mid-South, L.P. ("Time Warner"), (collectively the "Petitioners"), petition the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("TRA" or "Authority") to suspend the effective date of BellSouth's proposed CCS7 Access Arrangement Tariff ("Tariff"). The Petitioners submit this Petition with respect to the May 17, 2001 Tariff submitted by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth"), which has a requested effective date of June 15, 2001.

If allowed to go into effect, the Tariff would apply to access which is related to Signaling System 7 ("SS7") service and add a per message Transaction Capabilities Application Part ("TCAP") and Integrated Services Digital Network User Part ("ISUP") charge of \$.000035 and \$.000123 respectively and monthly recurring charges, in addition to the normal recurring monthly charge already assessed on the jurisdictionally interstate traffic. SS7 is an inherent function of the telephone network in Tennessee and the entire country. SS7 provides signaling functionality for call routing and completion as well as access to various databases. SS7 is used in network management. SS7 is more efficient than the obsolete Dual Tone Multi-Frequency ("DTMF") signaling because it allows faster dialing or "quick call set-up" by checking to ensure

the line is open before seizing the trunk. SS7 messages are used for virtually every single phone call. The only exception to the use of SS7 of which the Petitioners are aware of occurs when a DTMF is still used. Otherwise all calls use SS7.

In one telephone call there are typically at least five (5) ISUP messages and one TCAP message. ISUP messages are for call acknowledgment, call set-up, and call processing. A TCAP message is used for caller identification ("Caller ID"), 800 or toll-free calls, and Caller Name And Number database ("CNAM"). There has never been a per message charge for SS7. The Tariff would apply to all telecommunications providers - ILECs, CLECs, IXCs, wireless carriers, and third party SS7 providers.

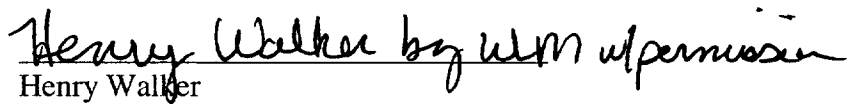
The Petitioners object to the Tariff because (a) BellSouth cannot measure or accurately identify which SS7 messages are interstate, intrastate, or local; (b) these charges would apply to local traffic, and, thus, mandate access charges which would apply in lieu of interconnection agreements; (c) it contains no corresponding reduction to local switching to balance the increase that BellSouth will receive if the Tariff is allowed to go into effect; (d) it requires that competing carriers develop a PIU/PLU for BellSouth's originating traffic which BellSouth would then adopt and apply to other companies; (e) it places an increased burden in resources on carriers as SS7 providers, requiring that every ILEC and CLEC file an access tariff to recover this "new" per message charge for SS7; (f) BellSouth is already recovering its costs through local switching charges and through interconnection agreements; and (g) it will have an impact on all non-BellSouth ILECs and all CLECs resulting in all affected carriers raising their traffic sensitive rates.

The effect of this tariff may be that every ILEC, every CLEC, IXC, and wireless carrier will raise rates to recover this new charge from either other carriers or from the consumer and will also restructure their access tariffs to charge BellSouth the SS7 message costs that each of these carriers also incur to complete calls. All carriers, not just BellSouth, incur costs to generate SS7 messages internally, transmit such messages to other carriers and to receive them from other carriers during the routing and completion of local and interexchange calls.

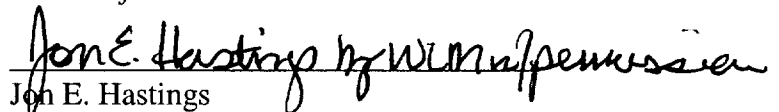
The Petitioners' rights and interests will be substantially affected by decisions made by the TRA regarding the Tariff. Therefore, the Petitioners respectfully request that:

- (1) this matter be set for hearing or other appropriate proceeding for purposes of receiving industry input;
- (2) the Tariff be suspended pending further investigation; and
- (3) such other, further, general, specific and more equitable relief as may be just and proper under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

by WLM w/permission

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## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been forwarded via U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, to the following on this the 14h day of June, 2001.

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